lain (who were the men on whose advice the governor acted) were ready to meet me in the governor's office on the wording of the amendments. I went at once to the governor's office and found there the attorneys (General Cole and Hon. John M. Gilman) the governor and Mr. Chamberlain and according to my best recollection, Gen. Sibley. I then and there wrote out the amendents which were assented to by the other parties present and at once sent up to the house to be offered by Col. Hicks. I was informed by Mr. Fletcher (and I agreed to it) that it would not do for me to introduce the amendments; that the governor and his friends must have the honor of reducing the interest. It is but justice to Mr. Fletcher and the other gentlemen named, but especially to Mr. Fletcher, to say that but for his and their intervention and emphatic action, these amendments could not have been carried through the house. They did pass the house and were adopted by the senate and in pursuance of the agreement the state officers who issued the bonds fixed the rate of interest at four and one-half per cent.

SAVED BY JUDGE WILSON'S AMENDMENTS.

Let us see how much these amendments saved the state and cost the bondholders. The bonds to be issued under the bill as above stated were about $4,300,000. By the bill before the amendments it was absolutely provided and required that the bonds should draw five per cent interest. Therefore one-half of one per cent was saved on the bonds issued, viz: $21,500 *annually* and (if the bonds run as long as it is provided they may,) there will be saved by this amendment to the state $645,000, and by the other, reducing the interest from seven to five per cent for a little over two years as before explained, over $200,000. Indeed this does not state nearly the full amount of the gain to the state for by the amendments thus made the state saved interest from January 1882 to January 1884. After this, even if this were all, it could not be expected and I well knew that the railroad companies would not look on me with favor.

Farther, during the former session of the legislature, when I was a member of the house and senate, the attempts—(generally successful) to secure swamp land grants in aid of railroads were very numerous, and many other bills partial to corporations and granting them special privileges were introduced and urged, as the records will show and as any honest member of the legislature, to whatever party he may belong, will testify. *I opposed them one and all.* Such bills were too numerous to be referred to particularly, but I think that I may be pardoned for referring to one or two other transactions that will explain the feeling towards me of the railroad companies and the capitalists who control them and of corporations generally.

TAXING RAILROAD LANDS.

At the session of the legislature in January, 1881, it being suspected that extensive tracts of land, in reality owned by private parties, were being held illegally untaxed, in the name of different railroad companies, a resolution was offered by me in the House, for the appointment of a committee to investigate and report "whether any lands granted by the state in aid of the building of any lines of railroad have been or are held exempt from taxation, after the same have been sold or contracted to be sold, or after they have become the private property of any person or persons, natural or artificial; or whether by any device or subterfuge any of said lands are held exempt from taxation, in violation of law."

The resolution having been adopted, and the committee appointed, of which I was chairman, upon investigation a majority of the committee became satisfied that on a large scale certain persons were holding their property in the name of some railroad company, and thus illegally shielding it from taxation. They therefore reported, and recommended that—

"The State Auditor be instructed, by the House, to cause to be placed on the tax list lands granted to the St. Paul & Chicago Railroad Co., the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Co., Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Co., the Stillwater & Fergus Falls Railroad Co., and (part of those granted to) the Southern Minnesota Railroad Co."

To this report was added, as a concession to those who opposed the report, a proviso that the "majority report of the committee be submitted to the Attorney General, and that he may in his discretion stipulate with the different companies mentioned, for the bringing of test suits to determine the taxability of the lands in said report mentioned; and in case said course is agreed upon that the other lands of such companies, not embraced in such test suits, may, in the discretion, and on the direction of the Attorney General, not be placed on the tax roll until such test suits are determined." This report and resolutions were adopted by the House. Subsequently suits were brought in Hennepin county to enjoin the taxation of the lands of the St. Paul & Chicago Railroad Company and a block of the lands of the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad Company; but these suits were not decided in the district court until the winter of 1885, when that court held in both cases, the lands exempt from taxation.

At the extra session of the legislature in the Autumn of 1881, it was understood that the taxation of these lands would be resisted on the following among other grounds, viz:

1. That the resolution of the house aforesaid, not having the force of law, the State Auditor would not be justified in placing the lands on the tax list in pursuance to it.
2. That the persons beneficially interested in the lands not owning the fee, it would be illegal to *tax the fee.*
3. That there was no law requiring, or justifying the taxation of *their interest* in the lands.

I therefore thought best to introduce a bill to obviate these and other possible objections. It was also deemed necessary under the severest penalties, to require the railroad companies to report to the State Land Commissioner such transactions as gave to their stockholders, or other persons, the fee or any fees interest in such lands.

While to those who were most earnest in urging the taxation of the lands it did not then nor does it now, seem that any further legislation was absolutely necessary, yet to avoid any embarrassment and to remove any chance for defeat on any legal technicality or quibble, a bill was introduced providing that:

"Whenever any railroad company, to which lands have been granted to aid in the building of its lines of road in the Territory and State of Minnesota, (and which lands have been by law exempted from taxation, until leased, contracted or sold by said company) has sold, assigned, transferred or disposed of, or shall sell, assign or transfer or dispose of, any estate, right, title, or interest therein, or thereto, the right, title, estate or interest of such purchaser, assignee, or holder, by whatever mode or in whatever form, such sale transfer or assignment is, or may have been made, shall become and be taxable and shall be assessed and taxed as other real property in this State; and the taxes on such right, title, interest, or estate shall be collected and enforced as taxes on other real property. "That whenever any special stock or land stock, or any other writing, or instrument whatever, is or has been issued by any railroad company, to any person or persons, with a view or intention to thereby grant, transfer, or secure, to the person to whom such stock, or instrument, is issued or delivered, any interest, right, title or estate, in or to any lands held by such railroad company, the right, title interest, or estate of such person holding such stock, writing or instrument, in or to the lands to which stock or writing is applicable or refers, shall be held and considered within the purview of this act, as subject to taxation and taxed as aforesaid. "If any railroad company shall issue any land stock or special stock or any certificate, contract or writing conveying, granting or giving to the holder thereof any interest, estate, right or title, in or to any lands, held by said company and exempted from taxation as aforesaid, and shall fail within sixty days after the issuance of such certificate, stock contract, or writing, to report the same to the land commissioner, or auditor of this state; or if having heretofore issued such contract, stock certificate, or writing, shall fail to report the same within sixty days after the passage of this act, the failure so to report, shall be held to be, and to operate as, a forfeiture by said company, of its corporate franchises and privileges; and the Attorney General of the state shall at once proceed against said company to have its charter and franchises declared forfeited."

To this it was supposed there could be no reasonable objection, for it only provided that *such purchasers should be taxed on their property as ordinary individuals* who acquire such an interest in railroad lands or state lands or school lands are taxed. Nor was it considered either a hardship or injustice to require railroad companies, under severe sanctions, to report such transactions. This bill was drawn with great care, and in my opinion would have made impossible, without the connivance of the taxing officers, the success of such fraudulent schemes in the future.

The consternation manifested on the introduction of this bill showed that the parties interested thought it would effect the purpose for which it was drawn—the taxation of their property. It was resisted at every step, and beaten at that session. I again introduced it at the session of 1883, and it was again beaten. It was again introduced at the session of 1885, on the first day of the session, I believe. It was senate file No. 2. It was fought in the committee, and in the senate at every step. Such a lobby was called, and kept in attendance as I have never seen except that which hovered around the capitol in aid of the old railroad bond bill. It passed the senate at the last session, *but the house was not even permitted to consider it.* A few tricksters, influenced, I know not how, having some knowledge of parliamentary rules, succeeded in keeping it smothered in one committee after another until the legislature adjourned.

All the bills and resolutions looking toward the taxation of these lands were drawn by me, and all the facts exposing the iniquity gathered by me at an expenditure of very much labor and time. But few appreciate the magnitude of this iniquity. After a careful examination of the question I believe that there have been thus held untaxed not less than two, perhaps three million acres of land, that are, legally and equitably, just as much subject to taxation as any other property in this state. It is perhaps safe to say that these lands are worth, on an average, four dollars per acre, and that the tax on them annually would not have been less than fifty to one hundred thousand dollars. This the state has lost. But this is not the worst of it. These lands lie largely on the frontier, among the farms of settlers who have to bear not only the hardships of frontier life, but often the pinchings of poverty. In each township and county the amount of tax to be raised to build highways, bridges and school houses, and make such other improvements as are necessary in new country, is not less because these lands are not taxed. The fact is that the settlers are compelled to *pay the tax of the owners of the lands* as well as their own.

AN OUTRAGE SYSTEM.

Russell Sage, Selah Chamberlin and a number of their associates residing in eastern states, and a large number of the most wealthy men of our own state, who are the owners of these lands, have thus, by a kind of legal legerdemain, compelled and are compelling the most hardly pressed class of our settlers *to pay their tax.* This has been going on for a period varying from 10 to 15 years and over. The duty to expose and remedy this evil I therefore felt to be imperative, and the opposition was such as only rich and powerful men to command. The bill having been defeated by the means stated, and the district court of Minneapolis having decided against the State in the suits which were brought in pursuance to the resolution that I offered in 1881, they supposed us vanquished. But the cases being pending on appeal in the supreme court in 1885, I informed the Attorney General that I would, if he were willing, assist him in the argument. He gladly assented and enclosed me a retainer of one hundred dollars, with a promise of a farther fee. This money I returned and declined to accept any fee for my services—not wishing to leave it in the power of any one to intimate that my action in the legislature was with a view to personal gain. I argued the case in the supreme court; and that court reversed both cases, holding absolutely that the lands of the St. Paul and Chicago Company, about four hundred thousand acres, are taxable, and reversed the judgment in favor of the St. Paul and Sioux City Company on grounds that in my judgment settle the question that its lands are taxable. I am advised too that on the line of the Southern Minnesota nearly 50,000 acres have been added to the tax roll on account of the proceedings which I may be permitted to say I instituted. I do not wish to claim for myself all the credit of this contest or victory. To very many others the greatest credit should be given; but I do not overstate the part which I took when I say that I inaugurated the investigation and took the leading part in every subsequent step. I also uncovered the facts that assured our final triumph; and on me above and beyond all others the vials of wrath of the men who thus sought to evade taxation have been, and doubtless will continue to be, poured for exposing their disreputable and dishonest schemes. Every member will bear testimony to this. Any one who will take pains to examine the figures will see that in the transaction to which I have referred, there have been subtracted from the coffers of these men and added to our people and the State not less than one million of dollars.

TWO MILLIONS SAVED.

I venture to assert that when this question of taxation is fully summed up, the net profit to the people and loss to these parties, will not fall much, if at all, short of two million dollars. It is not strange therefore that they think me an unfit man to send to Congress. And their opposition is doubtless not lessened by the fact that during the time that I was so dusily engaged in frustrating their schemes I was often counselled and employed as attorney by their companies. But it is but justice to them to say that I do not believe they ever intended or expected their retainer to affect my conduct as a citizen or a legislator. The labors which thus performed gratis and which have taken from monopolists and added to our people so much, were greater than any one can be made to believe who did not witness the efforts against which we had to contend. Not only have I uniformly while a member of the Legislature opposed all land grants, bonuses, subsidies or other special privileges to railroad companies or other corporations, but I have sought to make such compulsory bonuses or subsidies impossible. I therefore at the session in 1883 proposed a substitutional amendment providing that "No county, city, town, township or other subdivision of the State, shall ever subscribe to the capital stock of any railroad company or of any private corporation or make any donation or loan its credit in favor of any such corporation."

SUITS AGAINST CORPORATIONS.

This I succeeded at that session in getting through the Senate with a slight amendment but it was beaten in the House. I again introduced it at the last session and it passed the Senate without amendment, but was again killed in the House, largely through the influence of bonus and subsidy brokers who wished to make gain at the expense of the people and State. Nor is this the length and breadth of my offending against such corporations. What they seek above all things is to be freed from the jurisdiction of our State courts and juries and to get their litigation into the federal courts. That their pecuniary interests would be advanced by this, may be admitted; that it is inconsistent with the interest of the people, is too clear to admit of question. The expense of litigation in the latter court and the delay—especially when the amount is so great as to give the right of review to the Supreme Court of the United States—are so great that the removal amounts practically in many cases to a denial of justice and places poor litigants at the mercy of the rich and especially at the mercy of foreign corporations. Fully impressed with this view I publicly called attention to the great wrong in a paper which I read before the bar association some years since which was widely circulated. And I have *at all times* in the Legislature voted and acted in such a manner as to, so far as we could, remedy the evil.

The full and perfect remedy in such cases can only be reached by the action of Congress. Further, the same men to whom I have above referred, including Alexander Mitchell, Russell Sage, Selah Chamberlain, John M. Burk, M. L. Sykes and a number of eastern capitalists associated with a number of the most wealthy men of our own State, constituted the Minnesota Railroad Construction Company. They were the wealthy and controlling men of the Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Companies. The company obtained possession legally of one thousand bonds of the city of Winona of the par value of one hundred thousand dollars and accrued interest. I was consulted by the city and gave my opinion that we had a right of action against it. I was therefore ordered to proceed against the company in such a manner as to me seemed proper. I conducted the litigation to a successful conclusion and the suits growing out of it having in one form or another been carried through the State courts, district and supreme, and United States Circuit Court and Supreme Court, and I obtained and collected from the company for our city over $180,000 for damages, costs and accrued interest. And the same company, having obtained the bonds of the city of Lake City to the amount of $75,000, brought suit against that city to recover, and I was employed to defend and did so successfully—recovering a judgment for the city. The sum which they could have recovered in that suit would have been almost $125,000—had they recovered at all.

HEAVY VERDICTS WON.

I have also recovered verdicts against the Northern Pacific Railroad Company for personal injuries, one for the sum of $25,000 and one for $20,000. The first was cut down by the court to $10.000 and after being carried through the circuit court and supreme court of Dakota and the United States supreme court was affirmed for the above sum and interest and costs, amounting to between $13,000 and $14,000. The other, for $20,000, was affirmed by the supreme court of the territory for the full amount and is now pending in the supreme court of the United States, by which I have not the least doubt it will be affirmed. I have also recovered many verdicts and judgments against other companies of $8,000, $5,000 and under.

I believe that I can truthfully assert and prove by the record, that I have collected very much more from the railroad companies of the state than any other attorney in the state. And the record shows, too, that in the most important matters my acts have been unselfish and without fee or reward except such reward as I got as a member of the community and by feeling that I have done my duty fearlessly.

I do not refer to the several verdicts judgments to show, nor do I claim, that the railroad companies are always wrong, but merely to show the reason for their opposition. While I believe I was right in each case, I also believe that the counsel opposed to me in each was equally honest and conscientious. Such corporations have an equal right to justice with any and every other person. And he is an unmitigated and shameless demagogue who would assert that it was always wrong to defend such companies or bring suits for them. When the railroad company is right, it ought to be defended. When wrong, it ought to be compelled to respond in damages. The only test in all such cases should be, and with honest, honorable and intelligent men always will be, did the attorney deport himself honestly and honorably. And any man who will ask support because he has successfully sued a railroad company or any other corporation or one who will try to prejudice an adversary simply because he has counselled or defended a railroad company, insults the people by assuming that they are benightedly ignorant and prejudiced. Railroad companies are a necessary part of modern civilization. It is not wrong to either build or operate them. But inasmuch as concentrated capital has a power that if improperly used would be most dangerous to the State and to the individual members of society, it is proper that that

POWER SHOULD BE MOST CAREFULLY AND VIGILANTLY GUARDED.

In all countries and under all forms of government the most important duty of the government is to protect and defend the rights of the masses against the aggressions of the wealthy and powerful and especially of corporations and monopolies generally; and perhaps this duty has never been so imperative as now. Not only does my record show that I have sympathized with the people as against the improper influences and exertions of corporate power and centralized capital, but I may be permitted to say that it clearly shows that I have, according to my best judgment and ability, diligently and always stood up for the rights of the people against all forms of attack by sharpers and those who wish to make money by their acts at the expense of the people in disregard of justice.

A few years ago we were overrup by a swarm of patent right sharks, who, by all sorts of trickery and fraud, swindled honest and unsuspecting people. They attacked the people to-day by one species of fraud, to-morrow by another. Soon after I left the bench I found that nearly $30,000 of patent right notes of citizens of Houston, Filmore, Winona and Omsted were held by a resident of Winona. They all had been purchased before they grew due and suit was brought on a number of them. They had all been obtained by some fraudulent practice. The defendants applied to me for counsel. I tried and won the cases and not one dollar of the notes was collected. In all this I deserve no credit; for it is just what any intelligent, conscientious lawyer would have done. But I may be permitted to say that in one of the suits carried to the supreme court of our State (Cummons vs Thompson, 18 Minnesota Reports, p. 246) certain principles were settled that greatly crippled that class of swindlers. But I did not stop there. I drew and carried through the Legislature, a bill which gave to the defendants in such suits the right to prove that such notes were obtained by fraud and thus defeat the action whether the notes were in the hands of the original payee or not.

I not only drew this bill and got it through the senate of which I was a member, but I followed it into the house where it was earnestly opposed by certain bankers and dealers in such paper and aided in its passage through that body. Since that bill became a law, patent right swindlers have rarely been head of in this state, I believe—and it would be fruitless for them to come here. I thus practically did away with litigation on that class of cases, to the great detriment of those of my professional brethren and especially of those who are accustomed to take them "on the halves."

SUITS FOR THE FARMERS.

A few years ago our farmers storing grain in warehouses had only the pecuniary responsibility of the warehousemen, where the grain was not stored in a special bin. If the grain was shipped out by the warehouseman in such case, he was irresponsible; the farmer suffered the loss. This was a crying evil. I drew the first bill offered in the legislature to make it penal for a warehouseman to ship out grain stored with him without the written consent of the owner. This bill I gave to a member of the legislature from Winona county to be introduced and it was by him introduced. It did not pass that year; but the next year it did in a slightly modified form. Soon after the bill became a law, in order to make the danger to warehousemen violating it apparent and notorious, at the instance of a few of my farmer friends without fee or reward I prosecuted and convicted the only man I believe who has ever been convicted under the law. He was by Judge Mitchell sentenced to states prison. This proved a sufficient warning and I have not since heard of such a crime. I also in the legislature favored and aided in the passage of the oleomargarine bill. And to the best of my ability I aided to pass a law requiring notice to the owners of land before the right of a tax title holder should become absolute—so as to make impossible the acquiring of a tax title without the knowledge of the owner of the property, and I refused to consent to accept a retainer to argue in the supreme court in favor of a construction of the statute to the effect that a man could get a valid tax title in the land of another after the latter had paid his tax to the proper officer. The records will show that I have always refused to be retained as an attorney to assist any person to deprive another of his land on a tax title. Until recent years I was more frequently engaged as an attorney in Wabasha county than any other attorney outside of the county. The "half bread tract," so called, was largely in that county and the titles on that tract have been very questionable. I without exception refused to take a suit to question or unsettle the title of any person who had honestly purchased and paid for the land—even though the title was not legally valid and although many such cases were offered to me.

THE FINAL SUMMING UP.

But I have too long trespassed on your patience. I shall therefore not longer refer to or dwell upon particulars. While I have served four sessions in the legislature your county has had as senators and members many witnesses of my acts—all of them opposed to me politically, or at least nominally. I now challenge any one of those men, for I respect them all, to rise up and say that I ever let attachment to party blind me to my duty as a citizen or legislator; or that I have ever cowered before wealth and power or hesitated to take the part of the people against any and every form of attack by wealth or power or chicanery; or that I have ever let my own personal interest interfere with the fearless performance of my duty as I understood it.

Again I go farther, and I challenge any one of those men to say whether there was another man in the legislature whom the monopolists, tax title sharks, patent right swindlers, and all that class, more hated or feared. I am told my adversaries have their men investigating and critically examining my record. Let the work proceed. I do not claim to be perfect or to have been always right. On the contrary I know I have often erred. But this I do know, that I have never by word or act permitted power or wealth to deter me or turn me from the right.

I wish to be elected to Congress, but only as the representative of the people—my old friends and neighbors. Those powers and classes against which I have always stood opposed will beyond a doubt continue to oppose me—they seem to prefer my opponent over me as they preferred him over Mr. White. And you will find them resorting to the same means to defeat me by which they defeated Mr. White's nomination. I believe they will not succeed. The transparent and dishonest cry of "stop thief" which they have set up; by which it is attempted to divert attention from their methods, themselves and their candidate will not avail them. I appeal to you—the electors of the district. See to it that you are not circumvented, for the canvass made in the district for the nomination is merely a foretaste of that which will be made for the election.

I have no doubt you will candidly look at the record, the principles and previous practices of both candidates and judge them on that. And by that we should both stand or fall. No man should seek or secure an office unles his *acts* have shown him worthy of it.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

We, the Democrats of the First congressional district of Minnesota, through their delegates in convention assembled, send greeting to the people of the district, state and nation, and congratulate them upon the fact that a new epoch has at last dawned upon us in the accession of a Democratic administration, affording promise of release from the thralldom, which for so many years has hung over the nation through Republican misrule.

Resolved, That we fully indorse the administration of President Cleveland. He professes that which is right and acts upon his own professions, and we again tender our congratulations, that, though antagonized by all the baleful influences and power which so many years of Republican misrule has engendered, yet he has accomplished much good; that many useless offices have been abolished and large sums of treasure saved.

Resolved, That the Republican party, although professing a deep interest in the agriculturists, has so fashioned legislation that the farmer is unable to bear the burdens of the support of the government, and grievously taxed him to support a burdensome protective tariff and Republican monopolies.

Resolved, That the Republican party, although professing to be the peculiar paternal guardian of the wage earner, has aided and abetted by its legislation and sympathy the fastening upon the country of a system of convict labor, thereby robbing our own laboring classes of chances for labor and the right to obtain a living.

Resolved, That industrial and moral worth, not wealth, should be the true standard of industrial and natural greatness; that in order to secure to the laboring class the full enjoyment of the wealth they create, sufficient leisure should be allowed him in which to develop his intellectual, moral and social faculties, and to derive all of the benefits, recreation, and pleasures of association; in a word, they should be enabled to share in the gains and honors of advancing civilization.

Resolved, That the public lands, the heritage of the people, be reserved for actual settlers—not another acre for railroads or speculators—and that all lands now held for speculative purposes be taxed at the full value; that laws should be enacted providing for arbitration between employer and employes and to enforce the decision of arbitrators; that we abhor the hiring of convict labor where it comes into competition with free labor, and we believe that the importation of foreign labor under contract should be prohibited.

Resolved, That we are in favor of such legislation as will make the general laws applicable to pensions so broad that all honorably discharged Union soldiers shall be entitled to a pension from the general government, thereby doing away with all favoritism by special legislation; that as the rank and file stand upon common ground in battle, so should they have an equal chance before the law.

(Adopted at the Congressional convention at Winona, Aug. 24.)

A Useful Monkey.

Dennis Reagan is now living in a flat which overlooks the Lackawanna tracks, says the Buffalo *Express*. Across the street lives an Italian nobleman in reduced circumstances who eks out his poor existence with the aid of a poor monkey and a worse hand organ. To Garribaldi comes Dennis one evening, and, after passing the time of day, warms up to the subject in hand.

"Av ye plaze, Misther Garibaldi," says Dennis in his most unctuous and wheedling tone, "wud ye have any objections to loanin' me yer munkey fer an hour or two ivry mornin'?"

"What-a for you want-a munk?" inquired the count.

"Niver ye mind," replied Dennis. "What wud ye charge a mornin' for the use av him?"

The count suggested that 10 cents an hour would be the proper figure, after vainly attempting to find out what Dennis was going to do with the monkey. Dennis haggled and tried to beat the Italian down, but Garibaldi wouldn't have that way, and the deal was closed at his figure.

Everything went beautifully for a few days. The money was paid promptly and the monkey was returned regularly in time not to interfere with the requirements of the count's profession. To be sure the animal looked a little hollow-eyed and care-worn, but in the main was in good condition.

Finally, however, the Italian's curiosity got the better of his avarice, and he told Dennis that the monkey would not be loaned any more. This announcement had a most depressing effect on Dennis. His megatherian intellect rose to the emergency, though, and he proceeded to effect one of those masterly financial coups which dazzle people who are not familiar with the workings of the capitalistic mind.

"Garrybaldy," said Dennis, "av ye'll promise to act square and not give the racket away I'll be after takin' ye into pardnership and gin ye half the profits for the use of the munkey."

"All-a-right-a," said the Italian.

At this the new partners shook hands, and each took another pull out of the can of beer which Dennis had warily provided to lubricate the negotiations. Then Dennis in his customary lordly manner put his arm through the Italian's, and together they sauntered over to the back yard of the house where Dennis lived.

"D'ye see thet ther pole, Garry?" inquired Dennis, pointing to a pole some fifteen feet high, surmounted by a cross piece.

The Italian couldn't very well help seeing it, and remarked that it was within the range of his vision.

"D'ye know phwat ther is beyant the fence?" said Dennis. "Thim's the railroad thracks. Now this, Garry, this is the snap: Early in the mornin' whin the coal trains begins to come in I put the munkey on the pole. The brakesmin is all out on the cars riddy to go up the thristles. Ivery mother's son of them flings two or three pieces of coal at the munkey. I've laid tin tons away in the cellar, and divil a wan o' thim's hit the munkey yet."

What is the Use?

What is the use of this impetuous haste?
The end is certain. Let us take our time
And hoard the vital forces that we waste
Before our day has reached its golden prime.

What is the use of rushing with spent breath
After old age, its furrows, its white hair?
Why need we hurry so to we come Death,
Or go half way, with hands stretched out to Care?

There is no use. Dear hearts, if we but wait
All things will find us. Let us pause, I say,
We cannot go beyond the silent gate.
That lies a short day's journey down the way.

So let us take our time in youth's fair bowers;
The summer season is so brief at best,
Let us look on the stars, and pluck the flowers,
And when our feet grow weary let us rest.
—Ella Wheeler.

The "Grand Old Man."

Shall the tie that is binding us be but a tether—
Naught but a fetter between our lands?
All the world waits for your answer, whether
We govern by handcuffs or clasping of hands.
Be not misled by promoters of panic;
Be not beguiled by the Brummagem plan;
Show that your metal's not falsely Britannic,
But true in its ring for the "Grand Old Man."

Well may they dub him the "one man power,"
Standing alone when there's room but for one,
In his pride of place like a mountain tower
That catches the rays of a rising sun!
We in the valley of final decision
Gather around him as close as we can,
To see what he sees on his summit of vision,
The triumph that beckons the "Grand Old Man."
—Gerald Massey in Pall Mall Budget.

STOPPED THE STAGE.

A Polite Stage Agent and the Rude Advantage That Was Taken of Him.

Capt. Long, an army officer, was staging it between Julesburg and Cheyenne before the railroad connected the two, says the New York *Sun*. The through passengers numbered seven, being five men and two ladies, the latter being the wives of two of the passengers. He was the only military man aboard. The two married men were easterners, who were going to Cheyenne to set up in mercantile business. One of the others was an artist and correspondent for a New York illustrated paper, and the fifth was a stockman. It was but natural that they should soon strike up a speaking acquaintance, and the natural result of this was a general conversation about stage robbers. Those chaps were pretty numerous at that time, and the chances were at least even on the coach being held up before the end of the journey. People who regard themselves in peril often become communicative. These had not been traveling half a day before it was known that the two mercantile men had about $16,000 in greenbacks, and all but $200 was concealed in the bosoms of their wives. The artist had $150 in the lining of his cap and $30 in his wallet. The stockman had $100 in his wallet and his bootlegs jammed full of greenbacks. Long had $80 in his pocket and not a dollar elsewhere. The fact of his being an army officer will satisfy all inquiries as to why he didn't have more. The next thing was to expect the stage to be stopped, and to plan what they would do. They had all read and heard of such affairs, but no one had been run through the mill. The five men each had a trusty revolver, and it was hardly to be expected that they should permit themselves to be robbed by one or two men. It was arranged that in case the stage was stopped the ladies should sink down out of harm's way and give the men a chance to show their mettle. As a matter of course, they depended on the driver to help them out as he could.

It was about half an hour before sundown, and they were skirting the cottonwoods along the north fork of the upper Platte, when the driver suddenly pulled up. They looked out to see what had happened, and a man opened the right-hand door of the coach and looked in on them. He was about 30 years of age, light hair, blue eyes, sandy beard, and regular features. Indeed, he was a good-looking man. His dress was half hunter, half gentleman, and he looked clean and tasty. He had a cocked revolver in his right hand and his left held the door open.

"One—three—five—seven," he counted. "Ladies and gentlemen, I am extremely sorry to put you to any trouble, but I shall have to request you to alight. That is, the gentlemen will please step out, while the ladies can remain in the coach."

The artist was the first one down, and his revolver was taken as he reached the ground, and he was ordered to "stand over there." Each one was disarmed the same way, and the pistols of all were flung under the coach. While no one could say the driver stood in with the agent, he certainly acted a contemptible part. He had stopped the coach at a gesture, and now sat on his seat, with face entirely free from anxiety. He was armed with two revolvers, and he could have easily shot the agent through the head, as the latter gave him no attention whatever. Well, there stood the five men in line, and the agent surveyed them, and said:

"I must have $5,000 out of this crowd. Captain, place your money on the ground. Watches and rings I don't care for, and none of you seem to have any diamonds."

One threw his wallet down in contempt, and the others followed suit. The agent picked them up, selected out the greenbacks, and upon counting up the sum total, he laughed merrily, and observed:

"This crowd must be looking for a poor-house. Now, gents, no more fooling. There's money here, and I'm going to have it. If it isn't in your pockets it's in the coach. If it isn't in the coach the ladies have got it. Shell out, or I'll search every one of you." Then he backed up to the open door of the stage, leaving them about ten feet away, and still covered with his revolver.

"Ladies," he said, in a voice as soft as a girl's, "I didn't mean to trouble you, but I've had such poor luck outside that I must request a contribution. Please hand out the money you are carrying for these gentlemen."

The women were terribly frightened, and both at once started to comply with the order. The husbands saw ruin staring them in the face, and the one next to the captain, whose name was Travers, breathed so hard that all could hear him. Suddenly, as if shot from a cannon, and with the agent still covering them, Travers sprang forward. He made just two jumps to cover the distance. The revolver cracked and the bullet cut a lock of hair from his head, but the next instant he had seized the barrel with his right hand, the man's throat with his left, and was crying for help. All gave it fast enough, and inside of two minutes had the fellow disarmed and bound.

Three rather able girls are the daughters of F. A. Drexel, the Philadelphia banker, each worth $4,000,000, who have been brought up to look after their own affairs, and to make good use of their wealth. They maintain a great educational charity at Torresdale, Pa., and are said to have a list of 350 pensioners upon their private bounty. They live and dress plainly, and horses are about their only dissipation. They have just sailed for Europe to visit the educational institutions of the old world and gather points for their own guidance in the management of their school.

In South Carolina a landlord may seize everything a tenant has for over due rent, without preliminary writ or legal proceeding, and hold it as security for payment until replevined.

A CUCKOO CLOCK.

It Causes Considerable Trouble in the Major's Household and is Roughly Handled.

The major has always made a specialty of timepieces. He says there is nothing more cheerful than to wake up at night and hear the dainty machinery of a pet clock working away in the dark, and that if it wasn't for his clock he believes he'd sometimes be desperate enough to wish he were married. His clock was originally of the alarm species, and for several years used to go off with a whizz, rattle, and bang every morning at 7 sharp, and get the major up for business, but all of a sudden it got mechanical dyspepsia, or had congestion of the mainspring or something, and contracted the habit of going off at odd hours, sometimes in the middle of the night, and sometimes not until noon next day, and so the major either lost his sleep or missed engagements, and had no end of trouble. He took it to the jeweler's, and the expert inserted a pill box in his eye and held an autopsy, and said he thought he might be able to remedy the trouble temporarily for about $7, but if the major wanted steady comfort he had better spend $3 and get a new clock. The major, however, concluded to keep it and not wind up the alarm side in future, but use his pet merely as a timekeeper, and resorted to the artifice of leaving his shutters open so that the sunlight would pour in and awaken him two hours before breakfast.

Saturday afternoon a mysterious package came for the major, and after dinner he opened it and showed us a clock built like a Swiss cottage, made to hang high up on the wall and run by two big weights and a lot of brass chain. The major said it was a cuckoo clock, and said the man who sold it guaranteed that every half hour a cuckoo would appear at the cottage window, sing sweetly, and vanish, and he thought it would be just the thing to hang in the hall. So he got the stepladder and drove a nail near the ceiling, got the cottage in position, set the hands, and started the pendulum. The pendulum wigwagged several times solemnly and stopped. The major started it again, but to no purpose, and finally, after two hours' tinkering, gave it up, and we all went to bed to be up bright and early for Luray. About 11:30 Dick, who had been at the club, came in, and in groping along the hall accidentally moved the weights, and in some mysterious way started the machinery. In twenty minutes, just in the middle of a profound silence, we were aroused by this:

"Br-r-r-r-r-r-click! . . Whoopoo-o-o-o! —br-r-r-r-click!"

Dick thought the baby next door had colic again, and Bunny was afraid it was burglars. The major came into my room with a revolver and wanted to know if I had heard any one yell murder, and we could both hear muffled conversation proceeding from the servants' room in the basement Then we leaped over the banisters and listened, and concluded it was a false alarm and went to bed again, but just as consciousness poised to take her flight the thing broke loose again, thus:

"Ber-r-zit! Whoop-oo! buzz ooploo! ging! uku! xxz-z-z hoo! zz-z whewplew! clang! tootoo! xx kim! Kookloo! sizzz! bloobloo!—whist!" and then the thing shut up with a vicious snap which seemed to be intended to convey the impression that there was more coming by and by. There was commotion in the household. Bunny screamed and Dick came out with a Trantor, the major turned a handspring out of bed and went down stairs nine at a time, and distant sounds of slamming shutters gave hints of a general uprising among the neighbors. Of course this time the major had his suspicions, and after finding all the doors and windows securely fastened, and ascertaining that there was no maniacal cat concealed in the cellar, concluded that something was wrong with the chronological cottage, and after sitting up for half an hour caught the clock in the act. It was too high on the wall to reach, and the stepladder was out in the back yard, so Dick reached up and whacked the pendulum with his cane and succeeded in unshipping it, with the satisfactory result that the machinery ran six times as fast as before, and the cuckoo got devilish and whooped every five minutes, and it was 2 o'clock before the weight ran down to where the major could grab it, and put us out of misery. Bunny called down and begged the major not to be too harsh with the clock, but the major had his dander up, and jerked out about three yards of chain and six wheels, and said that when a piece of mechanism got to be as immoral as that clock it wasn't entitled to mercy. Then the night watchman, who generally sleeps on our front steps in fine weather, rang the bell and wanted to know if the house was afire, and the doctor came in from next door to see if any one had been taken suddenly ill, so it was nearly daylight before we got to sleep.—*N. Y. Times.*

The Opal an Unlucky Stone.

The opal is represented to be an unlucky gem. Perhaps it is. Here is a little evidence to prove it. A young lady of this city received for one of her wedding gifts a very handsome opal pin. On the wedding trip it was discovered that the opal was left at home. It was telegraphed for, to be brought down to New York by a friend. The friend carried it, as was supposed, but on his arrival it was not to be found. It had been mislaid somewhere. After a season it was found, and next made its appearance at a "tea," where it was an adornment of the young lady. Arriving home, the opal was found to be missing. Search in every possible place and advertising in the newspapers failed to reveal its whereabouts for weeks. It was at last accidentally discovered caught in the fringe of a Christmas card which depended from a gas bracket, where it had accidentally caught and swung around face to the wall in hiding, not five feet from where it was passed a hundred times a day, and not three inches from the button on the gas-fixture that was turned daily. The vacation of the opal was also unique. The couple went into the mountains with two trunks. Arriving at the hotel, one of the trunks was a wrong trunk, although the right check was present. Some blundering baggage-master en route had made a wrong transfer, and the trunk, which was the lady's, had gone off on its own hook, or its own check. "Here's a state of things," as Ko-Ko would remark. The lost trunk furnished the topic of conversation for the mountain village, the hotel guests condoled with the unfortunate losers, shook their heads lugubriously, and substantiated their shakes by cheerful(?) stories of lost trunks that they had known about. The telegraph was put into requisition, and, after many days, the trunk made its appearance, and then congratulations, "fireworks in the evening," etc. The opal was in that trunk.—*Hartford Post.*

Some one with a mathematical mind has figured it out that all the gold on earth to-day, in whatever shape—that is, mined gold, or, to put it plainer, the gold in use in all nations and the product of all ages—if welded in one mass, would be contained in a cube of less than 30 feet.

Out of 100 heroines of elopements, escapades, and more serious offenses, a statistical authority says that seventy-nine are described as young and beautiful, thirteen as beautiful, and eight as occupying high social stations.

English Guests.

Yes, I agree with you that English people are capable, somehow, of the frankest bad manners in the world. Have you heard any of the funny stories flying about that English couple touring among us a while ago—Mr. and Mrs.——? They are both, you know, public characters, both literary, learned in their gooves, madame æsthetic, monsieur reverend, philanthropic, and a musical enthusiast.

A musical friend of mine met them and was sufficiently fascinated by their converse to meditate inviting them to spend some days at her house. She mentioned this project to the lady who was entertaining them. "I have no doubt you would make a visit charming to them," the lady replied, "but before you ask them, I think I ought, inhospitable as it may seem, to give on some account of our experience as hosts."

This visit to us was to begin at lunch time. It was almost the hour for that meal when Mr.——, from whom they were coming to us, drove hastily to our door. "Have Mr. and Mrs.—— reached here yet?" were almost his first words.

"No, though I'm looking for them any moment."

"Well, we're at an utter loss what to do. They left us this morning with no word as to their luggage, their trunks are standing open in their rooms, nothing packed up, even their toilet apparatus scattered about. Are we to have them packed, do you suppose?"

Just then our guests came. Salutations over. "Are our boxes come?" demanded madam. Mr.—— interposed. "I have just driven here to ask about them. As they were open, and nothing packed, we did not understand your intentions about them."

"Why," returned his lady guest, "I expected your valet would pack my husband's things, and your wife's maid attend to mine."

"Very good," returned Mr.——. "The luggage shall come at once." He had no valet, and his wife no maid, but somebody packed the boxes and speeded them here.

At breakfast next morning we had unbolted wheat gems. Both our guests declined them, but Mr.—— looked very curiously to see what we should do with them. When one was broken open—"Why, they're not meat," he exclaimed.

"Oh, no,